

**Claims**

1. Method for protecting at least one motor vehicle component against manipulation in a control device comprising at least one microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) and at least one original memory module (2, 3), characterized in that the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) reads out and stores one specific original identifier (ID) of at least one memory module (2, 3) from the memory module (2, 3).
2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one identifier (ID) is stored in an (OTP)-area (11) of the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C), which area is writable only once.
3. The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the identifiers (ID) stored in the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) are used at least in part for authentication of the memory modules (2, 3).
4. The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein authentication is effected by comparison of the original identifier with the current identifier.
5. The process as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein authentication is effected by the encryption of data or programs, the key containing at least one part of one of the original identifiers (ID).
6. The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein data, which are stored in one memory module (2, 3) are encrypted by a key which comprises at least one of the original identifiers (ID) and said data are stored encrypted in one of the memory modules (2, 3).

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7. The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the data and programs which are stored encrypted in the memory module (2) comprise at least one fingerprint.
8. Control device for a motor vehicle component comprising at least one microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) and at least one memory module (2, 3), wherein at least one memory module (2, 3) has at least one specific identifier (ID) and the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) has at least one area (11) in which at least one specific original identifier is stored.
9. The control device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) has an area (11) which area is writable only once, and wherein the specific original identifier (ID) of at least one memory module (2, 3) is stored in this area.
10. The control device as claimed in one of claims 8 or 9, wherein the control device (1) has an authentication unit (12) for authentication of the memory modules (2, 3) which are connected to the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C).
11. The control device as claimed in one of claims 10, wherein the authentication unit (12) is formed by a program which is stored on the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) and the program is used for comparison of the original identifiers (ID) to at least one current identifier (ID) of at least one memory module (2, 3).
12. The control device as claimed in one of claims 10, wherein the authentication unit (12) is formed by a program which is stored on the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C) and which is used for encryption of data, the program for encryption of data or programs accessing at least one of the original identifiers (ID) which are stored on the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C).

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13. The control device as claimed in one of claims 8 to 12, wherein at least one of the memory modules (2, 3) is integrated in the microcomputer ( $\mu$ C).

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